

Message Text

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ACTION DOE-15

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PL, US
SUBJ: US-POLISH COAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 126215

1. MINISTRY OF MINING AND MFA HAVE CONFIRMED DESIRE FOR
HIGH-LEVEL US-POLISH MEETING ON COAL RESEARCH COOPERATION IN THE
US IN JUNE. THE POLES ARE QUITE WILLING TO ARRIVE
FOR TALKS BEGINNING JUNE 12, BUT ARE ALSO PREPARED TO
ARRIVE ONE WEEK LATER, IF THE US SIDE WOULD PREFER.

2. THREE-MEMBER POLISH DELEGATION, ALL FROM MOM, INCLUDES:
VICE MINISTER BIROWLAW BARANOWSKI, JAN LESZKIEWICZ (VICE
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY), AND EMANUEL
RUSIN (STAFF MEMBER, INSTITUTE OF CARBO-CHEMISTRY).

3. MOM (KAHANEK) ASSURES US THAT THE POLISH DELEGATION WILL
BE PREPARED TO DESCRIBE POLISH WISHES REGARDING THE 16
MINING PROJECT PROPOSALS. ALSO THAT THE POLISH DELEGATION
WILL PAY ITS OWN EXPENSES. THEY DO NOT YET HAVE ANY
SPECIAL PREFERENCES ABOUT FIELD TRIP SITES, BUT SINCE
THEY ARE ALREADY SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH THE
CENTERS AT PITTSBURGH AND MORGANTOWN,
WOULD BE INTERESTED ANY US
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SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

4. KAHANEK HAS JUST GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING BRIEF RUN-
DOWN OF THE MAJOR TOPICS THEY HOPE TO DISCUSS:

A. THE OVERALL COOPERATION IN COAL RESEARCH UNDER THE JOINT
FUND, INCLUDING COAL CONVERSION AND MINING TECHNOLOGY, THE

16 NEW PROPOSALS (THEY ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN HYDROGENATION OF COAL EXTRACTS), AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FROM THE US FOR COAL CONVERSION (THEY UNDERSTAND THIS MAY BE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE BUT WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT);

B. REVIEW OF NEW METHODS OF COAL GASIFICATION AND LIQUEFACTION, ESPECIALLY NEW PROCESSES OF TEXACO AND KOPPERS;

C. NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF COMMERCIAL SCALE DEVELOPED BY DORGRACE AND EBASSO;

D. POSSIBILITY OF SOME JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN MOM AND DOE SUCH AS TO DEVELOP A PILOT PLANT, PERHAPS IN POLAND, FOR COAL LIQUEFACTION (CAPACITY 200 TONS A DAY OF HARD COAL OR LIGNITE) OR FOR COAL GASIFICATION (THIS COULD INVOLVE A US INVESTMENT OF DOLS 25 MILLION).

5. KAHANEK ADDED THAT THE POLES MIGHT WISH TO VISIT HOMER CITY, PENNSYLVANIA AND/OR A NEW PROJECT SOMEWHERE IN NORTH DAKOTA THAT THEY HAVE HEARD WILL PRODUCE ONE BILLION CUBIC METERS OF GAS FROM LIGNITE.

6. KAHANEK EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLISH SIDE IS OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE US SIDE.
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7. COMMENT: WE WILL SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED TOPICS EARLY NEXT WEEK. IN VIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING VISAS) NEEDED FOR THE VISIT, WE BELIEVE POSTPONEMENT FOR ONE WEEK WOULD BE DESIRABLE.
END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

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